Request for City Council Committee Action
Health Department

Date: **February 10, 2014**

To: **HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Subject: **MOU WITH THE MDEWAKANTON SIOUX TRIBAL COMMUNITY FOR THE BIOCHAR COMPOSTING AND DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**

Recommendation:
Council authorization for the proper City officials to enter into a no cost Memorandum of Understanding with the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Tribal Community for the biochar composting and demonstration project, effective upon execution until terminated by either party. Other no-cost activities may be mutually agreed upon to advance the goals of the project without further City Council authorization.

Previous Directives: None

Prepared or Submitted by: Becky McIntosh, Director of Planning & Administration
Phone: x2884

Approved by: _____
Gretchen Musicant, Commissioner of Health

Permanent Review Committee (PRC): Approval _____ Not Applicable __X__
Policy Review Group (PRG) Approval ____ Date of Approval ____ Not Applicable __X__

Presenters in Committee: Jim Doten, Inspector Environmental Services
Mike Whitt, Natural Resources Manager, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Tribe

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

_X_ No financial impact (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information).

Background/Supporting Information
The City of Minneapolis and the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community are seeking to formalize a Memorandum of Understanding between the two governments to cooperate on developing biochar soil amendments. Biochar is stabilized carbon that when mixed with compost and used as a soil amendment can significantly increase crop yields. With our numerous public and non-profit partners we seek to reduce disparity in access to locally grown foods by working with different communities within Minneapolis. In addition to improving access to locally grown food the project has numerous environmental benefits including reducing local contribution to climate change, improving the urban forest, as well as reducing runoff and erosion.